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4 October 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Thailand: (Prime Minister Sarit has suggested that US ground forces be withdrawn from Thailand, but that air, logistic, and construction units remain.)

(In discussions with Ambassador Young on 2 October, Sarit said that local Communist propaganda was exploiting the US presence. He added that US forces had demonstrated they could return speedily if the need should arise.)

(While Sarit has denied that Thai foreign policy is shifting toward neutrality, Thai leaders will probably cite the withdrawal of US ground troops as evidence of Thai "independence" from the US.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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Turkey: (The government's effectiveness in suppressing the riots in Ankara on 2 October may inhibit opposition to the critical legislation which the government is introducing in Parliament. This should reduce the chances of an early military takeover.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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[redacted]

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Bulgaria: (As the 5 November party congress nears, middle-level party officials are concerned with the regime's failure to provide strong leadership and with the demoralization of the party rank and file.)

(These officials suspect the top leadership cannot agree on how to handle several pressing issues. The most important is de-Stalinization, which the USSR has insisted on. This is a problem for party leader Zhivkov because a majority of the party retains its Stalinist orientation.)

(The party rank and file is reportedly showing less enthusiasm for regime programs than before the last congress. A major factor is the recent price increases for consumer goods which, [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] have severely hurt two thirds of the Bulgarian people, including "the vast majority" of the party membership.) [redacted]

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West Germany: (A recent cabinet decision to put a ceiling on 1963 defense expenditures may slow Bonn's planned arms build-up.)

(The total defense budget of \$4.25 billion, although half a billion dollars above last year's, eliminates \$100 million from proposed expenditures. It will force postponement or cancellation of some defense programs, including some arms purchases already on order from the US.)

(The US ambassador in Bonn fears this will not only delay achievement of agreed NATO force goals at a time of increasing tension, but will set a precedent for future reductions. The ambassador feels that despite Bonn's tight budgetary situation, defense must be given first priority with no financial constraints on the defense program.) [redacted]

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Italy: (The Italian Government has reacted negatively to De Gaulle's moves for closer French-German cooperation, and considers it essential that Britain participate fully in a European political union.)

(A Foreign Ministry official told the US Embassy in Rome that Premier Fanfani was "incensed" about Paris' recent proposals to Bonn for strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly since French Premier Pompidou had made no mention of this in their talks at Turin in mid-September.)

(Fanfani has told the British that it might be better to restrict political integration to the Six plus the UK. As regards purely economic ties, however, Fanfani favored full Common Market membership for countries like Denmark and Norway and special arrangements for countries like Israel.)

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Britain-Finland: (Finland has moved a step nearer to having the 1947 peace treaty reinterpreted so as to allow Finnish armed forces to have defensive missiles.)

(In a note delivered on 2 October, the UK, speaking for the original Commonwealth signatories as well, acceded to the Finnish requests for such a re-interpretation--first made last February--provided that the missiles are acquired in equal amounts from Western and Soviet sources. The approval of the Soviet Union--the other principal signatory--is also required. Finnish officials have the "impression" from earlier discussions in Moscow that the USSR will agree.)

(President Kekkonen, who left on 3 October for an unofficial visit to the Soviet Union, may discuss the matter when he meets Khrushchev in mid-October.)

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